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Requirements for Making and Selling Pet Foods and Treats



While it may sound like a simple endeavor, making and selling pet foods and treats is subject to state and federal regulations and may require a significant investment of time for a start-up company. The manufacture and distribution of animal feed in Colorado is regulated by the [Feed Program](#) of the Inspection and Consumer Services Division of the Colorado Department of Agriculture (CDA) as well as by the United States Food and Drug Administration (US-FDA).

The most important part of the equation is the product itself. Each ingredient used in the product must be approved for use in animal feed by the US-FDA. The formula must be designed so that the nutrient levels are appropriate for the intended use and species.

Before feed products are distributed in Colorado, the company or individual must register with the CDA as a feed manufacturer, and submit a report identifying the products to be distributed. Product labels must be submitted to determine if they are in compliance with the feed labeling regulations.



Labeling regulations exist to ensure that the purchaser has the information needed to make an informed selection when choosing between feed products. The label must identify the type of product and the species it is intended for, whether it is intended to be fed as a complete feed or as a treat, directions for use and any precautionary statements. The ingredients must be listed and the nutritional value of the feed must be identified through the guaranteed analysis so that the feed can be evaluated. Also, the company that is responsible for the product must be listed as well as the quantity in the package. Other information may be included on the label as long as it is truthful and not misleading. The company may be required to provide documentation to substantiate any claims made. An example of a pet treat label may be found on the [department's website](#).

Feed products offered for sale may be sampled by a CDA inspector. Samples are analyzed to ensure that the nutrient levels meet the guarantees listed on the label. Failure to meet these guarantees may result in the product being removed from distribution. Samples may also be tested for the presence of mycotoxins or bacteria.

The Feed Program is here to help Pet Food and treat manufacturers understand and comply with the regulations. Please call 303-477-0081 or visit our [website](#) for more information.